

Town of Surfside

Commission Communication

Agenda Item #:

Agenda Date: September 9, 2008

Subject: Fire/Rescue Service Delivery Report

Background: Currently, the Town of Surfside receives fire and rescue service from Miami-Dade County. Such service has been in place for many years. However, the City of Miami Beach has presented to the Town of Surfside an option for similar service at a reduced cost. On June 12, 2007, the Town Commission adopted Resolution No. 2007-1771 providing for the withdrawal from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District (MDFR) and the establishment of a Town Fire Department (Attachment A). The resolution also provided for a study to evaluate the service currently provided by Miami-Dade County and the potential service offered by the City of Miami Beach (MBFR).

On May 13, 2008, the Town Commission adopted Resolution No. 1836 approving a proposal from TriData, Division of System Planning Corporation, Arlington, Virginia, to evaluate the fire/rescue service for the Town of Surfside by Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue and Miami Beach Fire and Rescue Department (Attachment B). A final report has been received and is presented to the Town Commission (Attachment C).

Analysis: Key findings of the fire/rescue consultant report reveal the following:

- 1) The Town receives a relative bargain by contracting for fire/rescue services. Starting and managing an independent Town department would be costly.
- 2) Contracting with MBFR the Town could expect to save approximately \$1.4M or about \$270 per resident per year.
- 3) MDFR provides specialized services not offered by MBFR such as hazardous material response, helicopter medical response and technical rescue. The Town may have to contract separately for these services, presumably, at additional cost.
- 4) MBFR provides excellent service, accredited by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE) and may add a fully-staffed rescue to a satellite station at 7940 Collins Avenue.
- 5) The Town's current Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating of "4" might be improved to a class "1" by contracting with MBFR.
- 6) Statistical demographic analysis indicates that calls for emergency medical service (EMS) are likely to increase in Surfside in the future.

- 7) Response times to Surfside are roughly comparable for both MDFR and MBFR with an overall edge to MBFR. Both departments are capable of handling single-family resident and multi-family resident structures.
- 8) Any new agreement with Miami Beach should include the requirement that an additional EMS unit be deployed on the City's north side to enhance EMS coverage for Surfside residents.

In summary, it would appear that the primary consideration for changing fire/rescue service from MDFR to MBFR would be financial. Both fire/rescue departments are excellent. However, it should be noted that MDFR provides more comprehensive special response teams that could negatively impact Surfside. The Town could incur additional cost for these services.

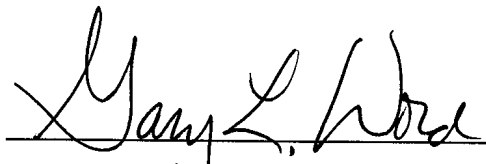
Other factors that have a bearing on any change in the fire rescue service to Surfside are legal challenges threatened by the County and political efforts by the County to require all fire/rescue service in Miami-Dade County to be under control of the County. Further, at its regular meeting in June, the Surfside Town Commission adopted a resolution submitting ballot language for Town voters to determine if there is majority support from the community to "opt out of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue District and re-establish its own fire department by contracting with the City of Miami Beach which will provide the fire and rescue services." The determination will be made on election day November 4, 2008.

Budget Impact: The cost of the fire study analysis was \$9,556.

Staff Impact: Town staff assisted the consultants by providing factual information.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Surfside Town Commission receive the Review of Fire/Rescue Service Delivery final report from TriData and provide direction to its staff.

Department Head


Town Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-171

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT; TO ESTABLISH A TOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Commission ("Commission") has conducted an evaluation of its current Fire and Rescue Service Program for purposes of determining whether it is utilizing its resources in the most cost effective and efficient manner for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the presentation of its existing service provider, Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District as to its fire and rescue services and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has considered the presentation of the City of Miami-Beach Fire Department as to its fire and rescue services and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to withdraw from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District based on its careful consideration of the above presentations and its evaluation of the costs and benefits provided under each program; and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to withdraw from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District and to establish its own fire department by potentially contracting with the City of Miami Beach to operate the Town of Surfside's Fire Department pursuant to rights established in the 1973 Agreement between Dade County and the Town of Surfside, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" ("1973 Agreement"); and,

WHEREAS, alternatively, the Commission desires to preserve and exercise its rights to opt out of the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District under Miami-Dade County Code, Article II, Section 18-30 "Municipal Option to Provide Alternative Service") ("Miami Dade County Opt Out Ordinance"), if the Town is precluded from withdrawing from the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Service District by a court of law for whatever reason;

WHEREAS, in any case, the Commission may conduct a non-binding straw ballot of the Town's citizens to obtain public input on its decision to withdraw from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District;

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WHEREAS, in any case, the Commission may conduct a non-binding straw ballot of the Town's citizens to obtain public input on its decision to withdraw from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District;

WHEREAS, the Commission had determined that it is in the best interests of the Town to withdraw from the Miami Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District and exercise its rights of municipal home rule authority in so doing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. That the above and foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Withdrawal Approved. The Commission hereby approves the Town's withdrawal from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District pursuant to the terms of the 1973 Agreement or alternatively, under the terms of the Miami-Dade County Opt Out Ordinance, if required by a court of law.

Section 3. Approval to Establish Town Fire Department. The Commission hereby authorizes the Town to establish its own Fire Department by and through the contracting of services to the City of Miami Beach to operate the Town Fire Department subject to a condition that prior to contracting with the City of Miami Beach, the Town shall have conducted a fire department study which must conclusively establish that the City of Miami Beach's proposal for the provision of fire and rescue services are adequate to meet the Town's needs at a significantly lower cost.

Section 4. Approval To Conduct Straw Ballot. The Commission authorizes the Town to conduct a straw ballot to obtain public input on its decision to withdraw from the Miami-Dade County Fire and Rescue Service District.

Section 5. Implementation. That the Mayor, the Town Manager, and the Town Attorney are authorized to take any and all action which is necessary to implement this Resolution.

Section 6. Severability. That the provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable and if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences and phrases of this Resolution but they shall remain in effect, notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

Section 7. Conflict. That all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.


Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval of the Town Council.

PASSED and ADOPTED on this 12th day of June, 2007.


R-07-1771


Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

Attest:


Beatris M. Arguelles, CMC
Town Clerk

**APPROVED AND TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**


Lynn M. Dannheisser, Town Attorney

Moved by: Commissioner Imberman

Second by: Vice Mayor Weinberg

Vote: 4-1

Mayor Burkett	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice Mayor Weinberg	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Blumstein	yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Imberman	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Levine	yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no	<input type="checkbox"/>

R07-1771

RESOLUTION NO. 1826

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE FLORIDA, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SYSTEM PLANNING CORPORATION TO PERFORM REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF EMERGENCY SERVICE DELIVERY IN ORDER TO CONSIDER "OPTING OUT" OF MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE TO THE TOWN; AUTHORIZING THE MANAGER TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE TERMS OF THIS RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2007, the Town Commission of the Town of Surfside passed Resolution 2007-1771 wherein it authorized the Town elected to "opt-out" of the Miami Dade County Fire and Rescue Service by establishing its own fire department, by and through the contracting of services to the City of Miami Beach, to operate the Town Fire Department, subject to a condition that the Town shall have conducted a fire department study which conclusively establishes that the City of Miami Beach's proposal for the provision of fire and rescue services are adequate to meet the needs of the Town at a significant lower cost;" and,

WHEREAS, System Planning Corporation is capable of conducting above-described study and has conducted a similar study for the Village of Indian Creek relative to the same subject matter; and

WHEREAS, based on the price of \$9556 and the terms of the proposal attached as Exhibit "A," the Town Manager requests authorization to enter into an agreement ("Agreement") based on those terms; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission has determined that it is in the best interests of the Town to enter into such an Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION
OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That each of the above stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

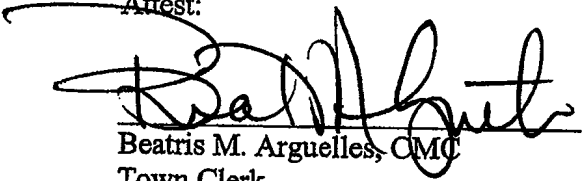
Section 2. Acceptance of Proposal. The Town Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with System Planning Corporation to perform the above-described fire study, and to execute an Agreement based on the terms of the proposal attached in Exhibit "A", once approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the Town Attorney.

Section 3. Implementation. The Town Manager is hereby authorized to take all action necessary to implement this Resolution in accordance with the terms, conditions and purposes of this Resolution and the Agreement.

Section 4. Effective Date. That this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

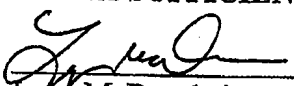
PASSED and ADOPTED on this 13th day of May, 2008.

Attest:


Beatris M. Arguelles, CMC
Town Clerk


Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

**APPROVED AND TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**


Lynn M. Dannheisser, Town Attorney

Resolution No. 2008-1836

“EXHIBIT A”



SYSTEM PLANNING CORPORATION



TriData Division

1000 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22209 • (703) 351-8300 • (703) 351-8383 fax • www.sysplan.com/TriData

April 21, 2008

Mr. Gary Word
Town Manager
Town of Surfside, FL
9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

Dear Mr. Word:

Thank you for contacting TriData concerning the review of emergency service delivery and possible alternatives. We thoroughly understand the Town's situation in this matter and the importance of any decision to 'opt-out' of the current service agreement with Miami-Dade Fire/Rescue (MDFR). We performed a similar study for neighboring Indian Creek and we would be happy to provide the same services to Surfside.

For this study we will:

- Meet on-site with Surfside officials to discuss the current situation and alternative solutions
- Examine the existing level of service provided by MDRF, including station locations and response times, resource deployment and availability
- Analyze the services provided to Surfside from MDRF for the past five years and project future service demands
- Assess the cost impact of opting-out and contracting with Miami Beach Fire/Rescue
- Evaluate the availability of services from MBFR
- Provide a letter-style report of all findings and recommendations, if any

During the review process we will consider relevant national standards and other professional guidelines such as the Insurance Services Office (ISO), whose ratings are used to calculate residential and commercial insurance costs.

Our proposed cost to provide the requested services is \$9,556, which includes all travel and expenses.

I hope our proposal meets your expectations. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Stephen Brezler, Senior Program Manager
Center for Local Government Studies

2008-1836



REVIEW OF
FIRE/RESCUE SERVICE
DELIVERY
Town of Surfside, Florida
FINAL REPORT

TriData, a Division of
System Planning Corporation
1000 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

August 2008

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Introduction

The Town of Surfside, FL contracted for consulting services from TriData, a Division of System Planning Corporation, to assess the level and scope of fire and EMS service currently provided by Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) as compared to those which may be offered by Miami Beach Fire Rescue (MBFR). TriData is a nationally recognized emergency service consulting firm located in Arlington, VA.

The review conducted by TriData is in response to concerns by Town officials about the increased cost of fire and medical service provided by MDFR. A referendum by Town residents will determine whether to opt-out of the MDFR district. Alternatives to replace MDFR include contracting with Miami Beach Fire Rescue (MBFR). For this project we considered the scope and level of service provided by MDFR and those likely to be provided by MBFR if the Town contracted for its services.

To conduct the review, Stephen Brezler, Senior Program Manager, and Senior Consultant John O'Neill conducted a one-day site visit to Surfside to meet with Town officials and survey the Town's risk. The purpose of the on-site visit was to get input from Surfside's officials, particularly its ideas for future opportunities. We also spent time evaluating the community's level of risk, which is primarily residential.

Mr. Brezler and Mr. O'Neill both have over 30 years of emergency service experience and both have served as fire chiefs. Mr. Brezler has been with TriData for seven years, the last five of which have been as the director of Local Government Studies. In this capacity, he has conducted analyses of many fire organizations, including comprehensive studies and master plans of U.S. fire departments.

A similar review was completed by TriData in January 2008 for neighboring Indian Creek Village. Therefore, the consultants were already familiar with the area and the situation regarding MDFR and MBFR. During the project, in-person and telephone interviews were conducted with the following individuals:

Charles Burkett, Mayor

Mark Ember, Vice Mayor

Gary Word, Town Manager

Norman Bruhn, Building Official

Martin Sherwood, Finance Director

David Allen, Police Chief

Sarah Sinatra, Town Planner

Background information regarding MDFR and the MBFR were obtained during the Indian Creek review; therefore, most of the background information needed for this study was already available. However, we also requested incident response information from MDFR on the responses into Surfside, which they provided. The incident data included the number and type of calls and average response times for calls from 2003 through May 2008. Information on staffing levels, personnel training, station locations, and apparatus deployment from both MDFR and MBFR were previously collected during the Indian Creek study and remained relevant to Surfside's situation.

Background and Situation

Fire and EMS services are currently provided to Surfside by Miami-Dade County as part of the fire district. Created initially to serve mostly the unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County, MDFR is a well-trained and progressive department. In addition to the unincorporated areas of the county, MDFR also serves several municipalities, including Surfside.

At issue recently for Surfside (and several other communities) is a perception that costs for fire and rescue services are too high. Several communities, including Surfside, are considering other options, including contracting with other departments such as MBFR. Some communities are also considering whether to opt out of their agreement with MDFR and start their own fire/ rescue departments.

Surfside Town Commissioners have passed two resolutions concerning the opt-out issue. Resolution 1771 was the first step to opt out of its agreement with MDFR. Passed on June 12, 2007, the resolution called for the Town to "withdraw from the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Service and to establish its own fire department by potentially contracting with the City of Miami Beach".¹ In June 2008, Town Commissioners adopted Resolution 1845, which calls for a special election on November 4, 2008 where residents will vote on whether to opt out of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue District and re-establish its own fire department by contracting with the City of Miami Beach".²

In response to the decision by several communities to possibly opt out of their service agreement with MDFR, Miami-Dade elected officials voted to change the rules allowing communities to opt-out of their service agreement with MDFR. Whether communities can now opt-out and contract with another agency, or create their own fire department, is a legal question currently in litigation. The legal questions of 'opting-out' are significant and will take some time to resolve. The final outcome will probably impact the final decision by Town officials whether to go forward with a new provider, probably as much as the issue of service equitability and

¹ Resolution No. 2007-1771, page 1.

² Resolution No. 2008-1845, Section 2, p. 2.

cost. The 'opt-out' issue in Miami Dade is being monitored by other local and state officials because of its potential impact statewide.

Town of Surfside – The FY08 operating budget is \$9.32M, which does not include fire and EMS services. Fees for fire and rescue services are paid directly to the county by individual property owners. The Town has approximately 110 employees. Of its total operating budget, 26 percent (\$3.62M) is allocated for police services. The police department has 47 employees, 32 of which are sworn officers. The police department provides its own dispatching staffed by civilians.

The police department has a minimum of four uniformed officers, including one supervisor assigned to patrol. Police officers are not trained as emergency medical technicians; however, they do have basic first aid and they are dispatched to all medical and fire calls. The police chief reported excellent relations between his agency and MDFR. He also reported that he was not aware of any issues regard a delayed response for any medical or fire calls responded to by MDFR.

Police 911 dispatch and communications is located at the Town office building and one dispatcher is on-duty most of the time. 911 calls go directly to the county's communications center; however, many Town residents call the police department directly. Town police dispatchers have access to the county's 800 MHz radio frequency and do coordinate their responses with other Miami-Dade units. Town dispatchers have pre-arrival protocols for medical emergencies; however, they are reported to be seldom used. We have concerns whether dispatchers know the guidelines well enough to use them in an emergency situation.

The current millage rate charged to Surfside by MDFR for its services is 2.2487. Of this, 2.2067 pays for direct services and the remaining (.042) for capital debt. Based on the current assessable base, Town residents pay approximately \$3.52M to receive fire and rescue protection. In FY07, the assessable base was \$1.36B; however, the millage rate for fire and rescue service was higher and residents paid about \$3.6M for these services. The rate charged by MDFR decreased significantly from 2007 to 2008 while assessed property value assessments increased.

Table 1 shows the Town's assessed value for 2005 through 2008 and the rate charged by MDFR for fire and EMS service.

Table 1: Surfside Cost for Fire/ EMS/ FY05 - FY08

Year	Assessed Property Value	Fire Tax Rate ³	Total Fire Tax	Fire Tax Increase/ (Decrease)	Average (\$) per Resident
FY05	\$.87B	2.661	\$2.32M	-	\$450
FY06	\$1.07B	2.678	\$2.87M	24%	\$556
FY07	\$1.36B	2.651	\$3.61M	26%	\$700
FY08	\$1.55B	2.2487	\$3.52M	(2%)	\$682
Average	\$1.21B	2.5697	\$3.11M	16%	\$603

The amount paid to MDFR is not totally unreasonable considering the Town's location, size, and risk. If the Town operated its own, independent fire department, it is doubtful the Town could provide the same or similar level of service for much less, all things considered.

Contracting with MBFR has its advantages because that department is already established. MBFR can improve its economy of scale by providing services to surrounding communities because its facility locations are good in relation to the new areas and it already has the support staff and functions to support operations in a new area. It also has the available capacity to handle more calls. The cost of adding Surfside as a customer is incremental for them compared to Surfside starting from scratch. For any community, starting a new service is typically the most expensive part. Adding new locations becomes less expensive as a percent of the total cost the larger the system becomes.

For Surfside, starting its own fire department would likely be the most expensive option. Even if capital costs such as a new station and apparatus were spread over 10 or 15 years, the cost would be very high. Add to that the cost for a chief and management staff, 24-hour personnel, as well as training and support staff, and the cost likely becomes too high to be realistic alternative to consider. Depending on the outcome of the opt-out legal situation, Surfside officials and residents do have available options, including contracting with MBFR. As with any situation, remaining with MDFR should be considered one of the options.

With respect to its decision, the following financial considerations are relevant to the situation:

- By contracting with MBFR, Surfside can expect to save about \$1.4M, if services were contracted with MDFR. Based on the Town's current population, the savings per resident is slightly more than \$270 annually if a switch is made. The potential savings are significant and the Town is correct to explore options.

³ Provided by Assistant Director Scott Mendelsberg, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue.

- Miami Dade Fire District would need to lower the millage rate charged for fire and EMS protection by approximately 40 percent to match the deal being offered by Miami Beach. Although MDFR has decreased its millage rate over the last several years, such a large decrease anytime in the near future is unlikely.

Besides cost however, there are others factors to consider, including the reliability and depth of service offered by MDFR. MDFR also provides specialized services such as hazardous material response, helicopter medical response, and technical rescue. It has been discussed that these services may be charged for by the county should Surfside and other communities opt-out. Whether the county could do this is a legal question, but officials should at least consider these factors before moving ahead with the transition.

Findings - Considering the factors involved, Surfside would be well-served by switching from Miami-Dade Fire Rescue to Miami Beach for its fire and rescue service. The service provided by Miami Beach is of very high quality and it has adequate depth to meet the Town's needs now and in the future. The cost proposed to serve Surfside by Miami Beach is 30 percent of the approximate \$3.52M currently paid by property owners to Miami Dade for essentially the same service. Under Miami Beach's proposal it plans to add at least a fully-staffed rescue to a satellite station located at 7940 Collins Avenue, which would improve the coverage to Surfside and be an improvement over the response times currently available from Miami-Dade. However, Town officials should also consider that actual cost savings may be less than estimated, depending on whether some of the current taxes paid to MDFR may not be elected out. Also, the assessment of fire fees must correlate directly to the property owners that benefit.

Risk Assessment

Originally part of Indian Creek and 'The Surf Club', Surfside was created in 1935. The Town has changed dramatically from its rural beginning. Densely populated, Surfside covers approximately one square mile.

Surfside's Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating is currently class 4, which is the same for most areas of Miami-Dade County. If services were switched to Miami Beach, the ISO rating may improve to Class 1, which is the highest ISO rating and that currently enjoyed by Miami Beach property owners. A full review of ISO and the financial impacts of switching to another service provider is not within the purview of this study.

With the exception of a few acres, the Town is completely built out. High-rise buildings are located along the main artery of Collins Avenue with commercial development running parallel to Collins Avenue along Harding Avenue. Single-family residences are located throughout the remaining area.

Predominant risks include medical emergencies, vehicle accidents, and an occasional structure fire, automobile or outside fire such as a sign or transformer. Minor emergencies such as electrical wires arcing, elevator malfunctions and non-emergencies such as automatic alarms are more common than fires.

Unlike its neighbor Indian Creek, which is 100 percent single-family residential, high-rise and commercial development in Surfside does require more fire suppression resources to be available. The high-rise buildings in Surfside also require more resources for the initial response than do the single-family structures located in Indian Creek. From a risk assessment perspective, the potential loss from an event in a high-rise fire in Surfside is considerably higher than from a structure fire in Indian Creek. In both instances however, the potential of the event occurring is generally low, in particular because most of the properties are owner occupied and they are well-maintained.

The potential for loss of life or injury in a high-rise fire is magnified because of the number of occupants in the structure. Even a small fire contained to a closet for example, would create a major life hazard were it to occur. Fortunately, 92 percent of the high-rise apartments in Surfside are owner occupied and/or property management supervised. This is an important consideration because owner-occupied structures tend to be better maintained than rental properties.

Structures in the residential areas of Surfside are tightly spaced and horizontal fire extension to adjoining properties could be a problem if a major fire were to occur. Water for fire suppression is reported to be adequate and there are sufficient fire hydrants for operations; hydrant locations are also good.

In 2006, the population of Surfside was 4,636, according to the latest U.S. census information. Figures provided by the Town's planners have the population slightly higher at 5,159 in 2007.⁴ From 1990 through 2006, its population increased by just over 500 residents from 4,108.⁵ According to the Town's planner, there is not a significant increase in population during the winter months with only 600 or so of the residents being seasonal. As can be observed in Table 2, almost 85 percent of the Town's residents live in detached single-family or high-rise structures.

⁴ Town officials estimate the 2008 population at 5,775.

⁵ http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFPopulation?_event=Search&_name=surfside&_state=04000US12&_county=surfside&_cityTown=surfside&_zip=&_sse=on&_lang=en&pctxt=fph

Table 3: Surfside Housing Units⁶

Unit Type	Total Units	Percentage
1-unit, detached	1,220	38.5
1-unit, attached	42	1.3
2 units	0	0.0
3 or 4 units	43	1.4
5 to 9 units	124	3.9
10 to 19 units	266	8.4
20 or more units	1,459	46.1
Total	3,166	100.0

As is typical for residential communities, emergency medical calls create most of the demand for emergency services and future demand will be primarily for medical service. Although new development may occur in neighboring communities, Surfside's population is not expected to change much. According to the most recent planning document, "future predictions for a 38 percent increase in populations within the Beach/CBD Planning Area do not include the Town because it is almost 100 percent developed".⁷

The same planning document predicts a fairly large population increase in Miami Beach from its 2007 resident population of 106,286 to just over 137,000.⁸ This increase will have a small effect on the number of medical calls in Surfside, primarily related to increased traffic accidents along Collins Avenue and the 96th Street corridor, which is the major access point for Miami Beach, Bal Harbor, and Indian Creek.

Clearly, Surfside is not a transient community or just a tourist destination as are many communities in the region. There is only one hotel on the beach and building regulations limit the height of new buildings to 120 feet and new high-rise buildings must be sprinkled.

There are no schools, hospitals, fuel depots, hazardous material sites, or marinas. In terms of blighted neighborhoods, which often breed crime and medical-related calls, Surfside is relatively pristine. Likewise, there are few residential foreclosures occurring and only a few vacant buildings. If these situations remain unchanged, fire and EMS responses will probably not change much, at least in the next few years.

⁶ U.S. Census Data

⁷ Town of Surfside, FL; *Evaluation and Appraisal Report*; Calvin, Giordano and Associates; Fort Lauderdale, FL; May 2008, p. 58.

⁸ Ibid; p.27.

As evidenced by past and projected demand, EMS calls in Surfside are expected to increase. To meet the increased demand, Town officials should consider that more EMS resources will be needed and include in any agreement that the MBFR (or other agency) should add the necessary resources to meet it. For example, the population growth in Miami Beach will increase its call volume, which will in turn trickle down to Surfside as MBFR units become busier. To prevent this from occurring, any agreement with Miami Beach should include provisions to add and maintain a fully staffed rescue unit at their satellite station located at 7940 Collins Avenue. Miami Beach officials have stated their intent to add these resources if Surfside and Indian Creek contract with them for service.

Surfside presently has 47 personnel allocated for the police department with 32 sworn officers and 15 civilians. The opinion of the Police Chief (Allen) is that the responses from MDRF is better today than previous years possibly due to the attention the law suit has brought and other motions passed by the Town's leadership.

Police officers are trained in basic first aid and CPR and three Automatic External Defibrillators are available for police officers to use in case of a cardiac emergency. The crime rate is low mainly dealing with domestic incidents and burglaries. A minimum of one supervisor and three patrol officers are on duty during each shift. Patrol officers work a two-shift schedule of 7:00am to 7:00pm and 7:00pm to 7:00am. There are no automatic vehicle locators or global positioning devices in the patrol cars.

Town police respond to all vehicular accidents. They can be dispatched by Miami Dade County or Surfside police dispatch. According to the police chief, there is little increase in crime during the 'peak season'. To its credit, all department heads and many Town employees are trained to the federal IMS 400 level for incident command and many others have been trained to the 100 and 200 level. This is excellent.

Calls for police are normally dispatched through the Miami-Dade Police Dispatch Center. However, the Surfside Police Department police can also receive calls over the phone at their dispatch center. Radio operations are shared with Miami Dade and six other towns in the immediate region. Surfside police are currently using 800 Mhz radios, and at the time of this study however, radio interoperability between Surfside and Miami Beach police is not available. If true, this situation should be remedied as part of any move to contract with Miami Beach since fire, EMS, and police units must be able to communicate with each other during an emergency.

Calls for Service and Response Times

From 2003 through the first five months of 2008, a period of 60 months, MDRF responded to 3682 incidents within Surfside. On average, MDRF responds to approximately 57 calls per month in Surfside. As stated earlier, the overwhelming majority of these calls are for medical emergencies. During the period, medical calls accounted for 62 percent of all calls. Of

these medical calls, 1,589 were categorized as 'life-threatening emergencies', according to the incident data provided by MDRF.

Structure and other fires accounted for only 9 percent (324/3,682) of the total incidents responded to by MDRF. During 2003 and 2004, MDRF responded to only 22 calls categorized as structure or other type fires. Fortunately, few of the structure fires occurring in Surfside are serious. Calls classified as 'other' are typically service-related calls such as water leaks and wires arcing, or calls for automatic alarms. Automatic alarms caused by system malfunctions are a problem in many communities, nationwide.

Based on the 5.5 years of data we analyzed, one incident is generated for every 7.5 residents. Overall, call volumes for Surfside are not high. However, emergency medical calls have been increasing over the last few years (see Figure 1).

Obviously, not all of the calls involve Town residents or property owners; many are for individuals traversing through the Town. Along with the risk factor of high-rise structures along Collins Avenue, service for medical calls should be a major consideration for the Town going forward, particularly as the population ages.

Table 4 depicts the number of calls responded to by MDRF from January 2003 through May 2008.

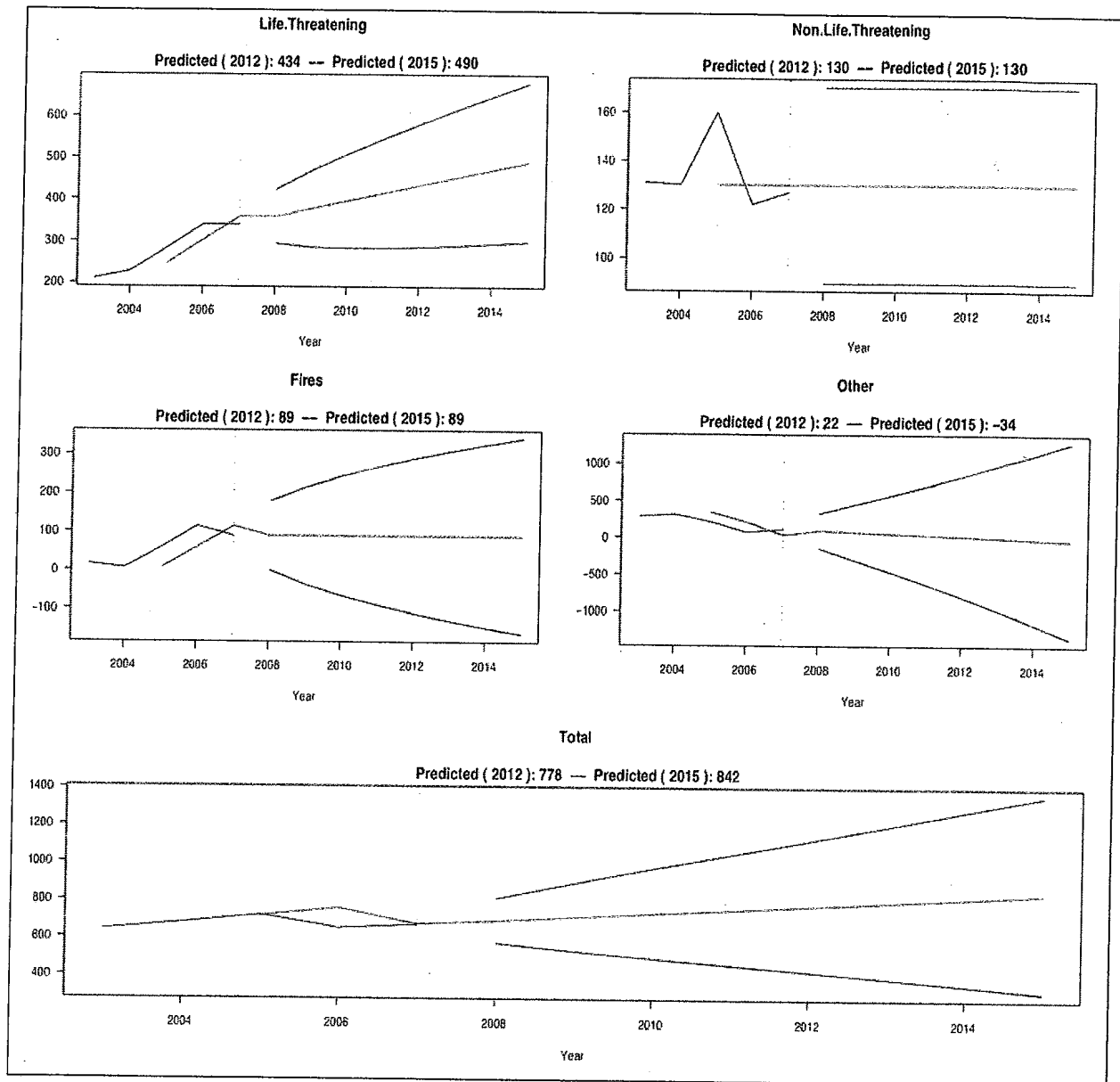
Table 4: MDRF Responses to Surfside, January 2003 - May 2008

Year	Life-Threatening Emergency	Non Life-Threatening Emergency	Structure/ Other Fires	Other Calls	Total
2003	210	131	16	285	642
2004	228	130	6	315	679
2005	284	160	59	217	720
2006	340	122	114	76	652
2007	340	127	89	114	670
2008 ⁹	187	40	40	52	319
Total	1589	710	324	1059	3682
Average	265	118	54	177	614

Based on these historical call volumes, we calculated the projected call volumes expected in Surfside (Figure 1).

⁹ For the period January through May.

Figure 1: Demand Projections for Surfside, 2012–2015



The above figures depict the predicted incident totals over the next eight years. Blue lines above and below the predicted incident totals show the 95 percent confidence interval (meaning that statistically there is a 95 percent chance that the actual incident total will fall within that range). The red line to the left of the dotted line shows how well the mathematical model fits the actual data provided by MDR.

Projected incident call volumes for Surfside assume that the Town's risk and population remains about the same. Although we calculated incident projections through 2015, long-term estimations over five years are often less accurate. The analysis does indicate that call volumes will continue to increase slightly over the next few years with life-threatening medical calls

expected to increase the fastest. The projections were made under the assumption that the Town's risk factors and population remain similar to that found during this study.

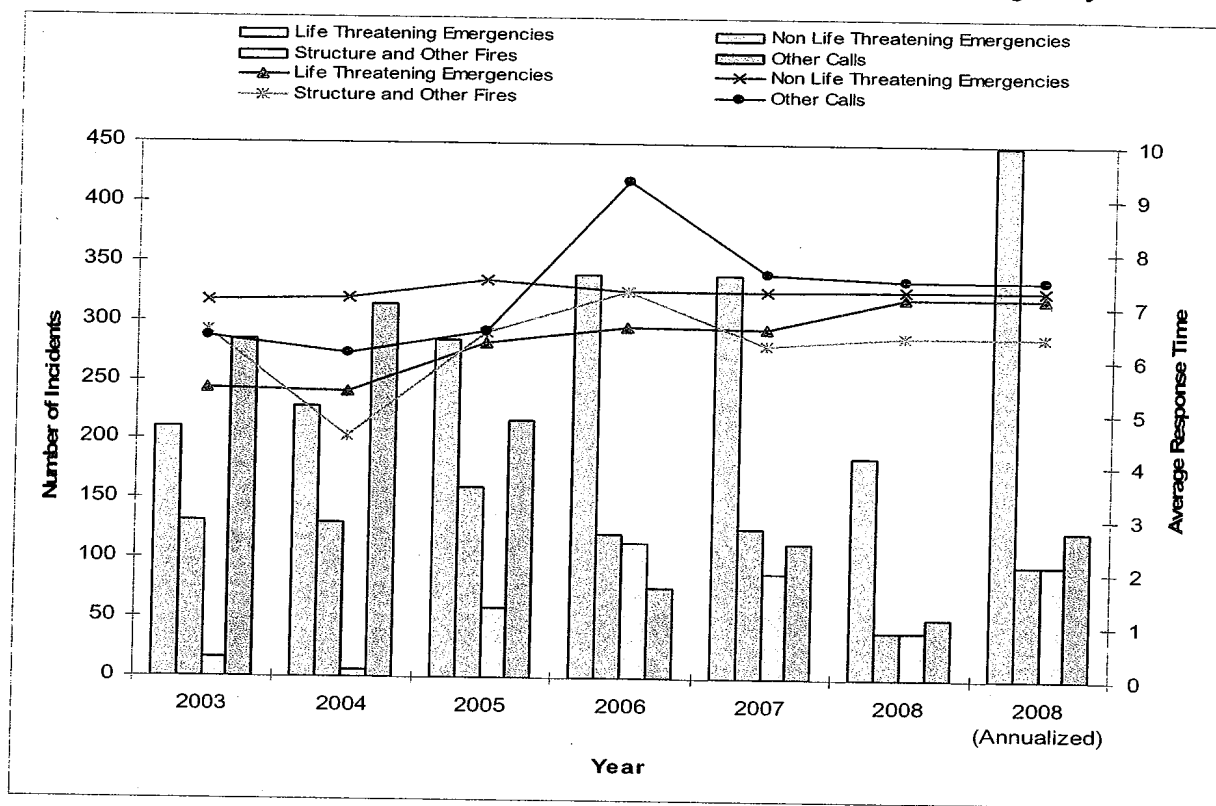
How fast emergency units arrive at the scene is an important criterion to consider. National standards vary according to community type and whether services are provided by career or volunteer departments. Response time includes three components: call-taking and dispatch time; turnout or reaction time; and, travel time. The general guideline is for dispatch and turnout times to approximately one minute for each segment (two minutes overall). For this study we considered MDFR and MBFR to have similar dispatch times and focused primarily on travel time.

The response time goal for MDFR is to reach every incident within 8 minutes. The response times data reviewed for this study reveals they are meeting this goal in Surfside most of the time. The exception is calls for non-emergency situations (Other Calls). Although MDFR is meeting response-time goals for Surfside, they have increased in recent years. This should be a concern for Town and MDFR officials and the situation should be closely monitored.

Depending on the workload of units within a particular system, response times can vary. For systems with low workloads (not very busy), travel time is a function of the station locations within the community. The Haulover Park station, which is closest to Surfside is only moderately busy thus available much of the time. Because they are generally available to handle a call, their response time is primarily a function of their location relative to Surfside. However, calls to Surfside have increased since 2003 and response times have also increased.

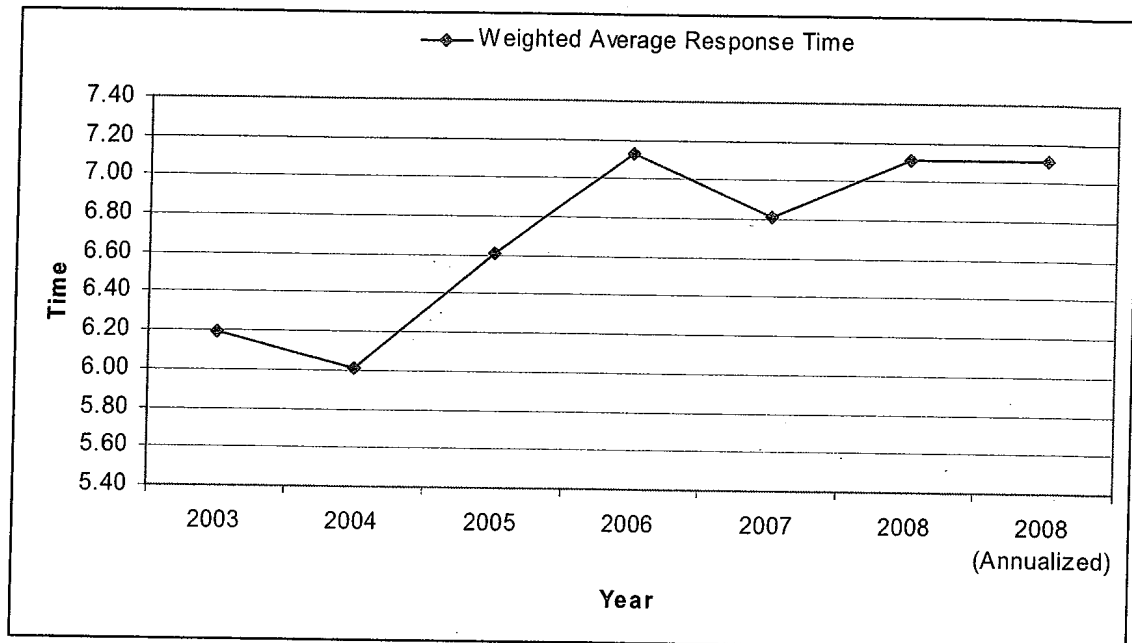
Figure 2 shows the average response time for the first-arriving MDFR unit to the various call types between January 2003 and May 2008.

Figure 2: Average Response Times by Incident Type, January 2003 through May 2008



To determine whether response times were increasing and to what extent, we calculated the weighted average for each year. That is, we figured the number of responses for each incident type and then determined the response time for all calls during a particular year. As can be seen in Figure 3, the average response time for the first-arriving unit by MDFR (for all incidents in Surfside) has increased by almost one-minute from 2003 to 2008.

Figure 3: Weighted Average Response Time, 2003 through 2008



For this project we also reviewed incident and response time data for MBFR. The review shows that response times for the system overall are very good. Call volumes for the EMS and fire units who would be first-due into Surfside were an agreement reached, are low for the engine and moderate for the rescue.

In its presentation to Town officials, MBFR reported a system-wide average response time of 4.47. Although not stated, it is believed the time only includes the travel segment. This would be accurate considering the data we reviewed for particular calls also includes turnout time and travel time. Closer examination of actual data for 2005, 2006 and 2007 for the closest unit to Surfside resulted in the following:

2005 – Of the 444 EMS calls responded to by the EMS unit closest to Surfside, an average response time of 6.83 minutes was recorded. This includes life threatening as well as non-life threatening responses with 6.28 and 7.43 minutes respectively. For the 59 structure and other fires responded to by MBFR, the total response time was 6.64 minutes.

2006 – Of the 462 EMS calls responded to by the EMS unit closest to Surfside, an average of 6.91 minutes was recorded. This includes life threatening and non-life threatening responses with 6.58 and 7.24 minutes respectively. The department reported 114 structure and other fires with a total response time of 7.23 minutes.

2007 – Of the 467 EMS call, an average of 6.91 minutes was reported. This includes life threatening and non-life threatening responses with 6.58 and 7.23 minutes reported respectively. Of the 89 structure and other fires, a total response time of 6.23 minutes was recorded.

Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

Miami-Dade County encompasses 1900 square miles and has a population of almost two-million residents. Fire and rescue services are provided by an all career service comprised of 2555 personnel, of which 2028 are uniformed responders. MDFR provides its services from 64 stations and is one of the largest agencies of its type in the U.S. Supported by tax district revenue, operating and capital budgets are \$428M and \$93M, respectively. To improve service delivery in the Surfside and Indian Creek Village area, a new station (76) has been proposed and funded. However, a site for the station has not yet been selected and Town officials are not supportive of placing a new station within the community.

MDFR currently has seven stations encompassing eight suppression and seven rescue units within six miles of Surfside. For this project, we considered the two closest facilities.

Station 21, located at 10500 Collins Avenue is the closest MDFR facility to Surfside at 1.68 miles.¹⁰ Station 21 has one ALS aerial platform truck (105') one ALS engine, one rescue unit, and one battalion chief. The total on-duty staff is 12 personnel.

The next closest facility is Station 20 (3.86 miles). Located at 13000 16th Avenue, NE, there are eight personnel on duty to staff one ALS engine, one rescue, and one battalion chief. All MDFR units are equipped with automatic vehicle locators (AVL). AVL technology allows the dispatch center to know the real-time location for all units in the system, which aids in dispatching the closest available unit. AVL is not used by MBFR.

Minimum staffing for MDFR includes four personnel on major suppression units such as engines and ladders and three personnel on each medical rescue. In addition to the engines, ladders and rescues, the department also operates several helicopters and fire rescue boats. Staffing of EMS units with three personnel is considered a higher level of service since most jurisdictions staff EMS units with only two personnel. Each suppression and medical unit is supervised by an officer.

A majority of MDFR personnel are certified as emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-B). In addition, the typical staffing arrangement is for at least one advanced life support (ALS) trained person to be on each suppression unit. This is an important distinction since ALS providers are able to treat more serious injuries and life-threatening situations such as cardiac arrests, strokes, and diabetic coma patients, even before a medical transport unit arrives. Because most units are staffed by ALS (paramedics) personnel, drugs and medical equipment are available on all MDFR fire units.

¹⁰ Mileage was computed using Map Quest. We also drove to several stations to check the accuracy.

A typical structure fire response by MDFR is three suppression units, one rescue unit, and one battalion chief (who is considered the incident commander). The initial response is 16 personnel, which is sufficient to handle the majority of incidents likely to occur. If additional assistance is required, three additional suppression units plus support staff are dispatched. This provides 20 additional personnel.

Operating from 64 stations, MDFR has excellent depth and is able to backfill its stations when they are vacant because of simultaneous calls or a large incident. Decisions about station coverage are made by a battalion chief in the dispatch center. In addition to covering its response areas, MDFR provides backup coverage to other jurisdictions in the metropolitan area under a mutual aid agreement. According to those with which we spoke, MBFR relies heavily on MDFR for mutual aid.

MDFR offers a variety of specialized teams to handle unique incidents. These services are provided to every jurisdiction in the county at no charge, regardless of whether they are covered by the fire tax district or a government entity with their own fire service. In meetings with us, MDFR officials indicated that they would likely re-evaluate the no-charge policy for these services if communities begin to opt-out of the fire district. Specialized services currently provided by MDFR include:

- Helicopter medical rescue
- Marine division with fire/rescue boats
- Hazardous material response
- High-rise operations
- Dive rescue
- Cave-in rescue
- Motorcycle medical rescue
- Anti-venom response team

Specialized services provided by MDFR are some of the most comprehensive found anywhere in the U.S.

According to MDFR, responses from Station 21 are timelier heading south toward Surfside than north on Collins Avenue. However, there are concerns about access from Station 21 across the bridge to Surfside because the bridge is sometimes a bottleneck, particularly at peak-load periods.

The overall training level of MDFR fire and EMS personnel is excellent. Standards such as those required by the state of Florida are required and there are requirements such that all officers must be ALS certified. Firefighters must possess a minimum of EMT-B which includes basic first aid, cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and recognition of symptoms for heart

attack, stroke, and other medical emergencies. Officers must also complete basic tactics and incident command training of 80 hours and have a minimum of five-years of service.

As a large organization protecting such a large and diverse community, the MDFR is obviously a busy department. However, the units at Stations 20 and 21 are considered to be slower units and are in the lower 25 percent of activity level for stations in the system. The stations average approximately five 5 calls per shift (24 hours), which is considered a low workload for fire and EMS units. Therefore, they are available for calls most of the time.

An important consideration for Surfside is whether fire and EMS units are available when an emergency call occurs. Also important is the length of time for units to arrive after an emergency has been reported. For this project we analyzed incident and response time data provided by MDFR. Key points found during that review include:

- From 2003–2007, the closest EMS rescue (21) responded to an average of 1,289 calls. This level of activity is considered low for an EMS unit, especially in a metropolitan area.
- Between 2005 and 2007, 964 calls were reported as life-threatening EMS emergencies. On each occasion a paramedic-staffed unit from the closest MDFR station (21) was available to respond.

The appendix includes the breakout of the calls and response times reported by MDFR. The entire data set was provided electronically to Surfside.

Miami Beach Fire Rescue

The City of Miami Beach encompasses 7.1 square miles and has a year-round population of approximately 95,000 residents. During the winter months, the city's population increases considerably due to the influx of winter residents.

The Miami Beach Fire Rescue (MBFR) consists of four stations. There are 206 FTE personnel, of which 184 are assigned to operations. MBFR is a Class 1 department as rated by the Insurance Services Office. It is also 'Accredited' by the Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). The CPSE is a cooperative effort of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International City/County Management Association. Only 112 fire agencies in the U.S. have received such recognition. On a typical day, 44 responders are on duty in MBFR.

In a typical year MBFR responds to approximately 13,500 EMS calls and several hundred fire-related emergencies. Fortunately, few of the fires are major. Because there are only four stations, MBFR relies heavily on mutual aid to support its mission. Jurisdictions providing mutual aid to Miami Beach include the City of Miami and MDFR. Miami Beach also relies on Hialeah for hazardous material response. Mutual aid is most often requested from the city of Miami Fire Department.

System-wide response time goals are lower for Miami Beach than for Miami-Dade and a response travel time of approximately five minutes is possible most anywhere in the city. Based on the current station locations, a response travel time of approximately six minutes is likely to Surfside from the closest MBFR station, according to the GIS analysis.

The GIS analysis also showed travel times from the closest MBFR station to be similar to that of the closest Miami-Dade station. During our meeting with Miami Beach officials, they expressed their intention to add an additional EMS unit on the city's north side at 7940 Collins Avenue to improve the service provided to Surfside and Indian Creek Village if a contract is awarded. If the additional facility were staffed by MBFR fulltime, response times for Surfside are likely to improve substantially.

Currently, Miami Beach's closest fire station to Surfside is Station 4, located at 6860 Indian Creek Drive. Just recently opened, Station 4 has one engine and one rescue unit and is 2.14 miles from the Surfside. Seven personnel are assigned daily to staff these units. During our meeting at Station 4, the officer estimated that 80 to 85 percent of their calls are EMS related and serious fires in their first-due area are infrequent.

The next closest MBFR facility is Station 3, which is located at 5303 Collins Avenue. Station 3 is 4.33 miles from Surfside. The travel route for MBFR Station 3 using Collins Avenue is excellent, so the actual travel time difference may be less.

Staffed units at Station 3 include one engine, one aerial, and one rescue with 11 personnel on-duty. An ocean rescue team trailer is also located here, albeit the unit is not staffed. Access to Surfside from the two Miami Beach stations is excellent and there are no impediments such as draw bridges or railroad crossings. The workload for Station 3 is also low with most calls being of the EMS and automatic alarm variety.

Minimum staffing for MBFR is the same as for Miami-Dade with four personnel assigned to every suppression unit and three personnel assigned to each EMS rescue. In addition, every MBFR engine has at least one ALS provider and all of these units carry the necessary drugs and equipment to provide advanced life support functions until a rescue unit arrives on the scene. Rescue units are staffed with three ALS providers.

MBFR has cross-trained most of its suppression personnel to a high level of paramedical skill. Of the 184 personnel, 170 are certified as Firefighter II's, which is considered the Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic level. The current level of service and EMS training is considered a very high level of service as compared to that provided by most jurisdictions.

A typical structure fire response for MBFR is four suppression units. This includes three engines and one aerial ladder company, one rescue unit, one EMS supervisor, and one battalion chief for a total response complement of 21 personnel. The heavier response complement

provided on the initial alarm by MBFR is offset by the fact that more stations in the MDFR system are closer, thus additional personnel can be accessed quickly if need be.

MBFR does not provide the specialized services available from Miami-Dade. MBFR does have a technical rescue team which is part of a larger state certified team. However, the team is on-call as part of a statewide response team.

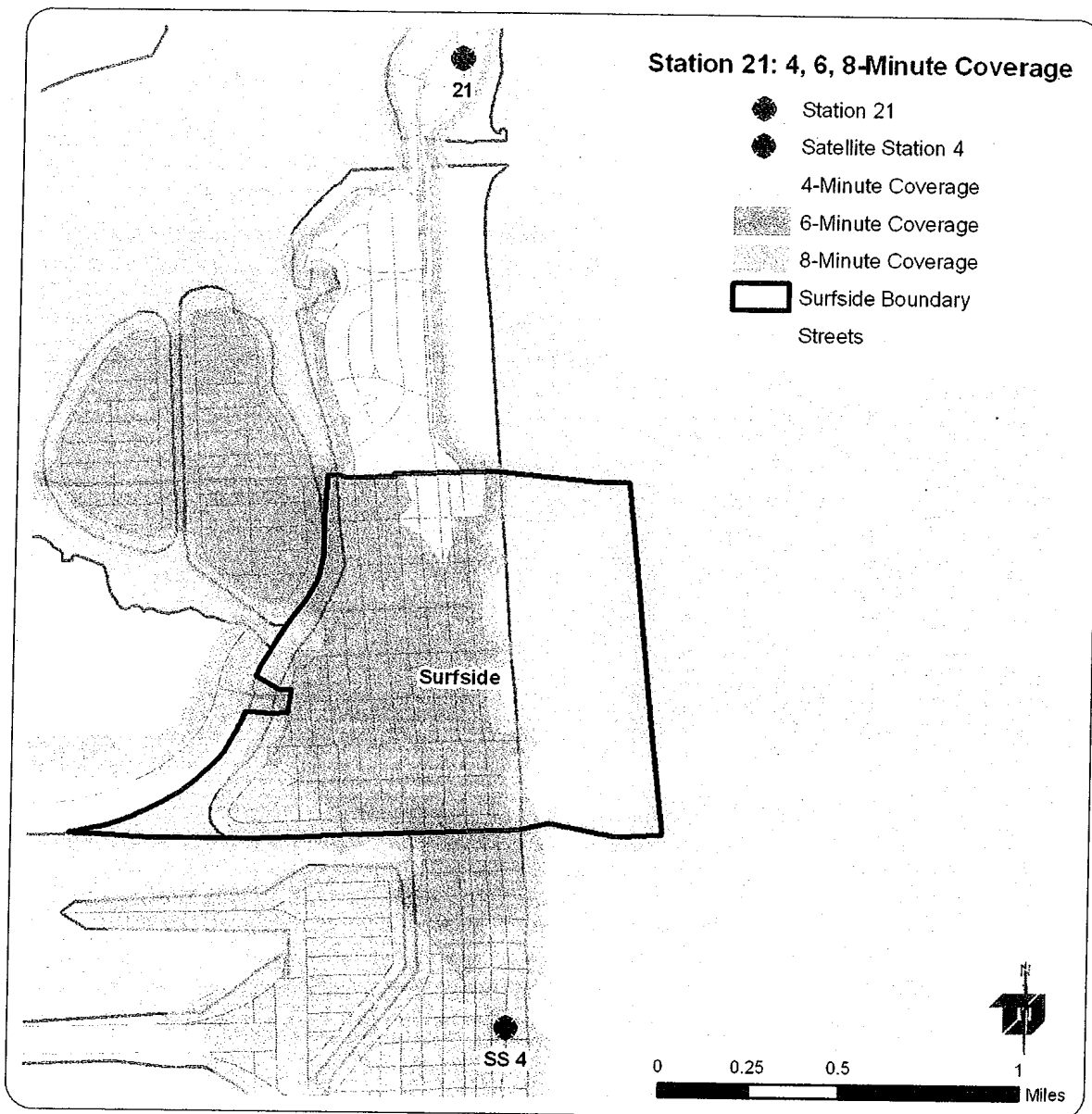
Firefighter, EMS, and officer qualifications are similar to those for MDFR. Firefighters are state certified and Level II Firefighters are EMT/P (paramedic) certified, which is the same for both departments. Suppression apparatus in MBFR are also equipped with ALS equipment and drugs; therefore, advanced medical care is available even when a fire unit is the first to arrive on scene.

Station Location and Response Time Maps

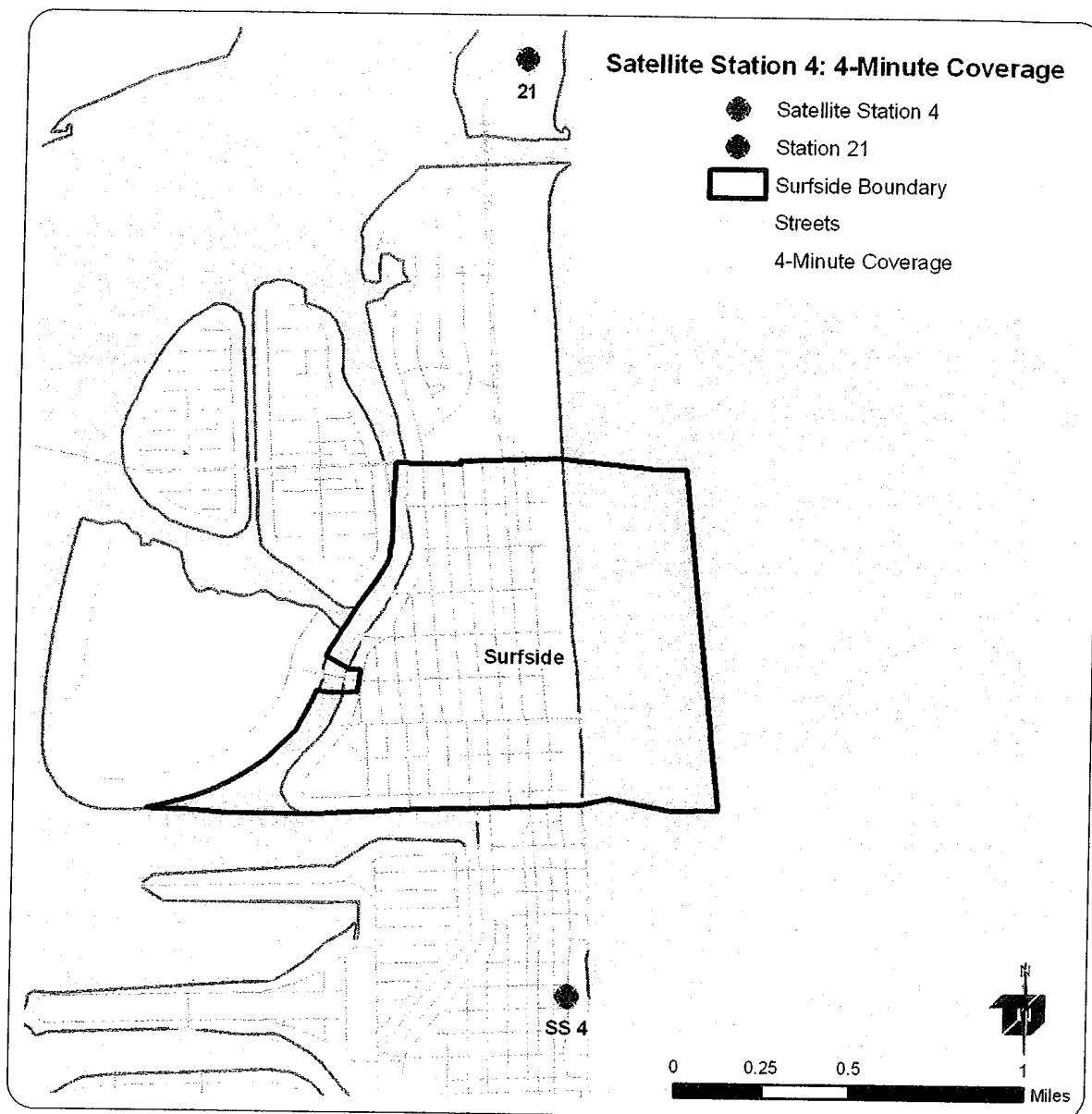
Following are the travel time maps for the closest stations in Miami-Dade and Miami Beach, respectively. Maps were developed using ArcGIS 9.3 software.

Map 1 shows the travel time coverage from Station 21 to Surfside. The model, based on existing road speed limits and current station locations, shows the 4, 6, and 8 minute travel time reach for Station 21. Complete coverage for Surfside is achieved within the 8-minute travel time coverage and the majority of Surfside is covered within the 6-minute travel time coverage. Map 2 shows the travel time coverage from Satellite Station 4 to Surfside. Using the same model parameters, complete coverage of Surfside is achieved within the 4-minute travel time coverage. Based on this analysis, Satellite Station 4 would provide a more complete coverage of Surfside for EMS calls than does the rescue from MDFR Station 21.

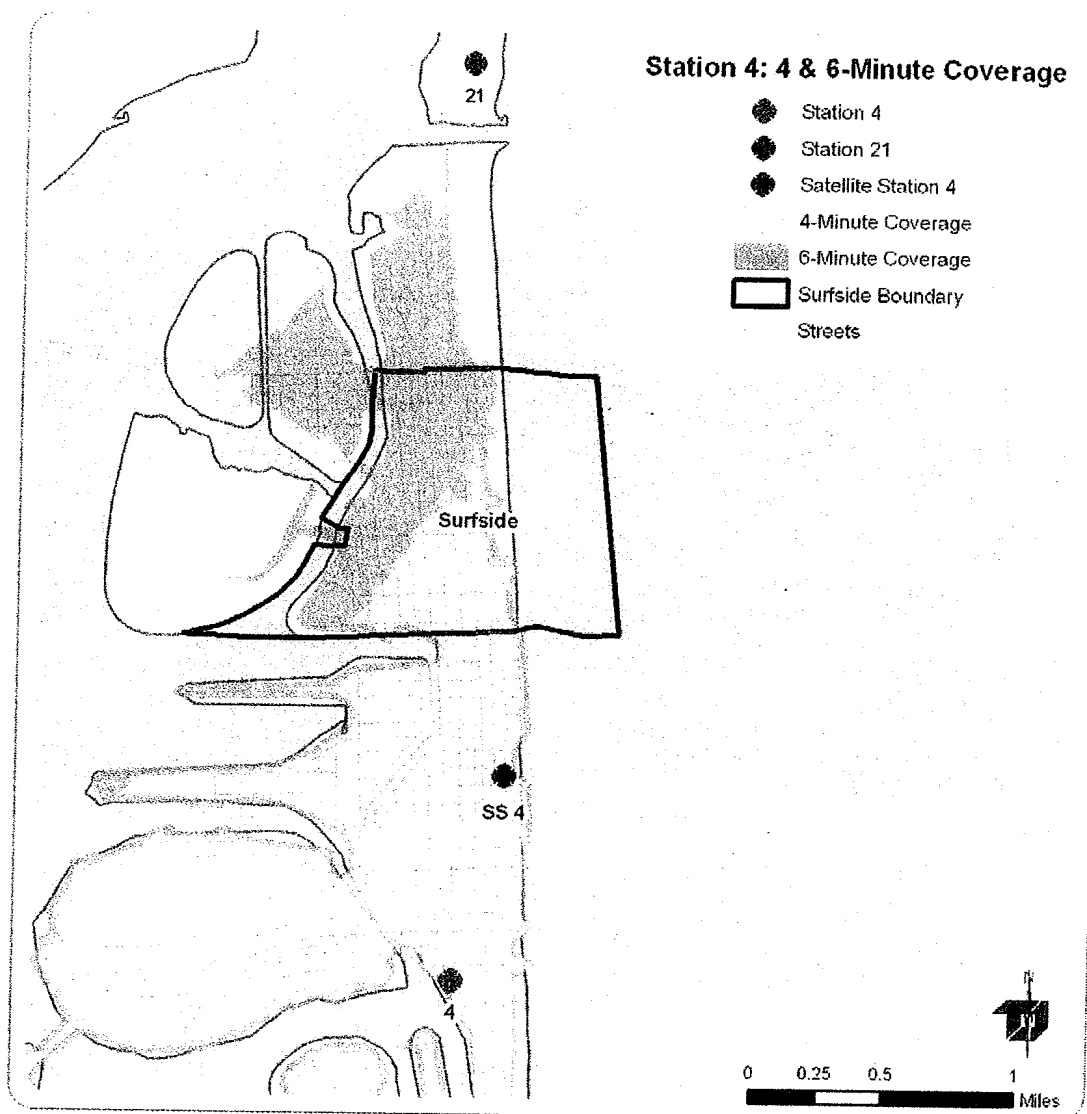
Map 1: MDR Station 21: 4, 6, 8-Minute Travel Time Coverage



Map 2: MBFR Satellite Station 4: 4-Minute Travel Time Coverage



Map 3: MBFR Station 4: 4-Minute Travel Time Coverage



Map 4 shows the theoretical travel-time of first-due fire suppression coverage from MBFR Station 4 to be better than the coverage from MDFR Station 21 (Map 1). MBFR units from Station 4 can cover on-half of the Town within four-minutes and the remainder within six-minutes. The coverage from MDFR reaches only a small portion of Surfside within four minutes from Station 21, with other areas being covered in six or even eight-minutes.

Conclusions

The question posed to us for this study is whether the services available from MBFR can be delivered adequately to meet Surfside's needs. In our opinion and based on the limited scope of this study, the answer is yes. Should Surfside elect to opt out of its current arrangement with Miami-Dade County and contract with MBFR, Surfside probably will receive a very adequate

level of protection, if no surprises arise and MBFR maintains its current level of service. In fact, if the new station proposed by MBFR as part of its agreement with Surfside is added, incident response times will likely improve over the response times now delivered by MDRF.

There are some areas where the protection afforded by MDRF is higher than that offered by Miami Beach. For starters, the MDRF system has more depth (more units within closer proximity to Surfside) and MDRF offers specialized services which are not available from Miami Beach. For Town officials, the decision is whether the additional cost for the enhanced special services and service redundancy is worth the extra cost (about \$1.52M).

Town officials must also consider the potential impact if the county decides to change the current mutual aid agreement in place with Miami Beach, or decides that 'opt-out' municipalities must pay for the specialized services they receive. If the latter is an outcome, cost savings derived from opting-out could be less than projected.

Following is a summary of the considerations for opting-out:

- The planned station by Miami Beach with at least a fully staffed rescue should be required under any agreement.
- As a Class 1 ISO department, insurance cost reductions may be possible by contracting with MBFR.¹¹
- Miami Dade station (21) is closer than the closest Miami Beach station (4). Distances are 1.68 miles and 2.14 miles, respectively. A similar response travel time is projected for both stations, according to the GIS analysis.
- The second closest station is MDRF station 20 which is 3.86 miles with MBFR station 3 at 4.33 miles
- Fire unit staffing levels are the same (four per unit) for both departments and both have three-person staffing on medical rescue units.
- Training standards are similar for both departments and they meet the standards for the state of Florida; likewise, the standards for supervisors are also similar and both have excellent officer cadres.
- Redundancy levels for the MDRF system are better, which allows stations to be 'backfilled' quickly. By comparison, Miami Beach only has four stations and it relies heavily on mutual aid to augment its services.
- Special response teams including marine fire suppression, hazmat response, technical rescue, and helicopter medical evacuation services are provided by MDRF. Specialized county services are currently provided to all incorporated and

¹¹ We base this solely on our knowledge that insurance costs for residential properties in Class 1 communities are typically less than for those where Class 4 (or higher) ISO ratings are applied. However, some insurance companies no longer use ISO ratings. ISO ratings also do not consider medical response, which is the highest area of demand for Surfside.

unincorporated areas of the county; however, the county may revisit this decision if municipalities opt-out. The same services are not available from MBFR. Although Surfside is unlikely to require these services, a decision to opt-out of the present fire district may have cost implications in the future.

- The fire hazard associated with a structure fire in Surfside is considered light to moderate given the mostly residential nature of the Town's infrastructure. However, we consider un-sprinkled high-rise buildings and their risk to be extremely high. To reduce risk, Town officials should work with the owners of every un-sprinkled high-rise to have them retrofitted with automatic sprinklers.
- MDRFR may consider whether to alter the decades-old arrangement to provide mutual aid with Miami Beach (and other communities); such a change has implications for MBFR which may need Miami-Dade for specialized services.
- The small size of the MBFRD is likely to result in better coordination with Surfside on important emergency response issues; the city manager and fire officials in smaller communities are often more accessible and responsive. Surfside Town officials also have a comfort level when dealing with Miami Beach officials which they do not have with Miami-Dade officials.
- Any new agreement with Miami Beach should include the requirement that an additional EMS unit be deployed on the city's north side to enhance EMS coverage for and Surfside.

Table 4 shows a summary of the service level factors and their potential benefit to Surfside.

Table 4: MDRFR and MBFR Comparisons

Evaluating Factor	Relative Importance	Current Services MDRFR	Proposed Services MBFR	Benefit MDRFR	Benefit MBFR
1. Cost	High	\$3,5200,000	Proposed at 30 percent the current cost		*
2. Apparatus Staffing	High	Four on each engine and aerial; three on EMS rescues	Four on each engine and aerial; three on EMS rescues	*	*
3. Workload/Service Availability	Extremely High	Closest station has a low workload	Closest station has a low workload	*	*
4. Closest EMS Rescue	Extremely High	Proposing a new station for the Surfside/ Indian Creek area	Satellite station ready to be staffed at 7940 Collins Avenue		*
5. Next Closest EMS Rescue	High	Station 21 (1.68 miles)	Station 4 (2.14 miles)	*	
6. Closest Engine	High	Station 21 (1.68 miles)	Station 4 (2.14 miles)	*	

Review of Fire/Rescue Service Delivery
Town of Surfside, FL

Evaluating Factor	Relative Importance	Current Services MDFR	Proposed Services MBFR	Benefit MDFR	Benefit MBFR
7. Closest Aerial	Moderate	Station 21 (1.68 miles)	Station 3 (4.33 miles)	*	
8. Training levels	High	Florida state certified and EMT-Paramedic	Florida state certified and EMT-Paramedic	*	*
9. Accreditation and ISO	Low	Is not accredited; ISO Class 4 ¹²	Is accredited; ISO Class 1		*
10. Specialized services e.g. helicopter, marine, hazmat, technical rescue	Moderate	Available fulltime	Rely on MDFR and other municipalities for these services	*	
11. Initial structure fire response	Low/ Moderate	Three suppression units plus a battalion chief – 16 personnel	Four suppression units, EMS rescue, EMS supervisor, and battalion chief – 21 personnel		*
12. Additional resources for a serious structure fire	Low	Relies on MDFR and other municipalities for backup	Additional resources are available close by	*	
13. Government Responsiveness	Low	Larger and less responsive to Town officials	Smaller and more responsive to Town officials		*

Based on the limited scope of our review and the response times expected from a newly proposed Miami Beach station near Surfside, it is reasonable to conclude that the Town of Surfside will probably receive at least an equivalent or even slightly higher level of service from Miami Beach Fire Rescue than currently provided by Miami-Dade Fire Rescue. In addition, the level of fire and EMS service as proposed by Miami Beach would preserve the Town's character as it meets, and in some cases exceeds, generally accepted industry standards.

¹² MDFR officials were confirming the ISO Class 4 rating at the time this study was completed.

APPENDIX:
MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE INCIDENT DATA

Review of Fire/Rescue Service Delivery
Town of Surfside, FL

Calendar Year	2003	
Call Type	Incidents	Average Response Time
Life Threatening Emergencies	210	5:39
Non-Life Threatening Emergencies	131	7:06
Structure and Other Fires	16	6:49
Other	285	6:37
Total	642	

Calendar Year	2004	
Call Type	Incidents	Average Response Time
Life Threatening Emergencies	228	5:35
Non-Life Threatening Emergencies	130	7:11
Structure and Other Fires	6	4:50
Other	315	6:07
Total	679	

Calendar Year	2005	
Call Type	Incidents	Average Response Time
Life Threatening Emergencies	284	6:28
Non-Life Threatening Emergencies	160	7:43
Structure and Other Fires	59	6:46
Other	217	6:48
Total	720	

Calendar Year	2006	
Call Type	Incidents	Average Response Time
Life Threatening Emergencies	340	6:58
Non-Life Threatening Emergencies	122	7:24
Structure and Other Fires	114	7:23
Other	76	9:29
Total	652	

Calendar Year	2007	
Call Type	Incidents	Average Response Time
Life Threatening Emergencies	340	6:55
Non-Life Threatening Emergencies	127	7:23
Structure and Other Fires	89	6:23
Other	114	7:57
Total	670	

Jan - May	2008	
Call Type	Incidents	Average Response Time
Life Threatening Emergencies	187	7:13
Non-Life Threatening Emergencies	40	7:28
Structure and Other Fires	40	6:40
Other	52	7:46
Total	319	

Review of Fire/Rescue Service Delivery
Town of Surfside, FL

Legend:

Call Type: break down of the response level code into incident types

Incidents: counter for unique incident

Average Response Time: time from MDR dispatch to arrival of first unit

Note:

Times may change as a result of further investigations into individual calls.